

STREET DOORS.

A POEM.

BY JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

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As calm pools do not drown the wretches

Who sleep, so calm, the city's front doors close

On lives laid waste and more than Theban woes;

The indifferent wood without grins shams in

The mother's anguish on the husband's sin.

Perhaps the hand, from whose familiar thrill

The latch just fallen scarcely yet is still,

The lawless tyrant, crimson-hot with wine,

Or idly struts, beside the fluttering breath,

To push away immitigable death.

Who know, dreamers, that the miserably

Confront their God, much more their fellow man.

But now and then some portal left ajar

Gives glimpses swift of what our neighbors are;

Or, flung back open, lets forth the shriek

Of some long anguish, pent for years a week.

Toward which the passers eddy, and incline

A moment's ear, then hurry on to dine.

And it is to oft hath happened that, when ere

The door has passed through which my eye could

peer

Into one cell of those still unnumbered lives,

I saw we gregarious men and women

So much of in and out, and in and out,

So many scarce yet rare where both have been,

So little happiness, but, in its stead,

Saw content, under the same roof, dead.

I have cried, "Fate, show me, then, the

lume

Where Death or worse hath not this morning

The one safe sanctuary, whither sorrow

Stiff and respectable from noia till white,

And so a line of street doors standing high,

As dumb city of unwinded tombs,

Where my roused fancy, deft in such grim

Strives with a shuddering eagerness to fix

In what uncertain one of them may strive

Some comforted hour excepted there alive;

Say, where that door of epochalares has been,

That close over all of death except his peace!

THE RECKONING HAD.

BY GRANT ALLEN.

Author of "The Red John Creed," "The
Curate of Churnside," "John Cunn's
Treasure," "Life of Darwin," etc.

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I first met Cesareine Vivian in the stalls

at the Ambiguities Theatre on Christmas

night.

I had promised to take Mrs. Latham and

Irene to see the French plays which were

then being acted by Marie Leroux's cele-

brated troupe. I had been waiting for them

at the time exactly engaged to poor Irene; it

has always been a comfort to me that I

was not engaged to her, though I know Irene

herself considered it practically equivalent

to an understanding marriage. I was, of

course, another intimately from child-

hood upward, for the Lathams were a sort

of second cousins of ours, three times

removed, and I had been brought up by

another by our Christian names, and been

very fond of one another in a simple girl-

hood and friendship. I had, however, been

known since childhood as a person of in-

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